



H1N1 Virus Partner Briefing

Influenza A (H1N1) Virus

August 19, 2009, 3 p.m.

Rhode Island: 202 confirmed positive cases, 76 hospitalized to date, 3 deaths
National Report: 51 states (including DC, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico & Virgin Islands) with 7,511 hospitalized cases, 477 deaths

Communication between Partners and HEALTH

HEALTH will continue to use the weekly Partner Briefing to communicate new information to its partners during the fall influenza season. HEALTH will also continue to post public guidance and advisories on its website, <http://www.health.ri.gov/>. Any guidance that is revised or updated will be date stamped for easier reference. HEALTH will work with the media to disseminate additional information to the public.

Partners can communicate directly with HEALTH during the fall influenza season using HEALTH's H1N1 email address, h1n1@health.ri.gov. Partners can also contact the lead hospitals in their HSRs with requests for information, questions or concerns.

Communication Toolkits (CDC)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently developed Communication Toolkits for Schools (Grades K-12) and for Businesses and Employers. The toolkits provide information and communication resources to help schools and businesses implement federal recommendations for the 2009/2010 influenza season. An additional toolkit for Colleges and Universities is expected this week. To view the Communication Toolkit for Schools (Grades K-12), see <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/schools/toolkit/pdf/schoolflutoolkit.pdf>. To see the Communication Toolkit for Businesses and Employers, see <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/schools/toolkit/pdf/schoolflutoolkit.pdf>.

Adult seasonal influenza vaccine

Adult vaccine providers will begin vaccinating adults for seasonal influenza as soon as they receive initial vaccine shipments. HEALTH recommends that adults receive the seasonal influenza vaccine as soon as it becomes available. Though vaccination is expected to begin earlier this year than it has in past years, the seasonal influenza vaccine will provide protection for the entire 2009/2010 seasonal influenza season. Adults can receive the seasonal influenza vaccine from providers who are enrolled in Immunize for Life, HEALTH's Adult Influenza Vaccination Program. Adults can also receive the vaccine at public flu clinics or in the workplace. If your doctor normally recommends that you be vaccinated for pneumonia, you should also get the pneumonia vaccine this year, since influenza increases your risk of developing pneumonia. To see which groups are recommended for pneumonia vaccination, please see <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/VIS/downloads/vis-ppv.pdf>.

Additional Resources

HEALTH at <http://www.health.ri.gov> ; H1N1 Information Line (M-F 8:30am- 4:30pm) 401-222-8022

CDC at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>

WHO at <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>